



MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Sept. 14, 2006

Annual celebration hosted by Marshall Center management

2006 Marshall Fall Cookout to be held Wednesday, Sept. 20



Last year, Marshall employees, along with guests from Stennis Space Center, Miss., and Michoud Assembly Facility, La., enjoyed barbecue during the team cookout.

By Shelley Miller

The 2006 Marshall Fall Cookout will be held Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the NASA Picnic Area. Marshall team members will enjoy good food, fellowship and entertainment at the annual celebration.

"The cookout provides a wonderful opportunity for center management to thank the entire Marshall team for their professionalism, steadfast work and commitment to NASA's mission," said David King, Marshall Center director. "I encourage everyone to come out and celebrate with your colleagues."

The cookout festivities will feature live entertainment by Sharon Hancock with Dixie Diesel, which includes band members from Marshall. A Car and Transportation Expo will

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CFC to challenge Marshall employees at kickoff Sept. 19

By Rita Roberts

Charles Chitwood, Marshall Center deputy director, will be among the first to issue a campaign challenge to Marshall employees at the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign kickoff Sept. 19 at the NASA Picnic Area. The challenge? To beat this year's campaign goal.

The Combined Federal Campaign is an annual initiative by federal and military personnel to raise money for local charities. Area leaders are encouraging potential donors to reach and exceed this year's Tennessee Valley goal of \$1.8 million. Behind the challenge

See CFC on page 5

STS-121 astronauts will visit Marshall Center on Sept. 14

Commander Steven W. Lindsey and crew members of Space Shuttle Discovery's STS-121 mission will visit the Marshall Center on Thursday, Sept. 14. The astronauts will present mission highlights at 10 a.m. in Morris Auditorium, Building 4200. Visit "Inside Marshall" at inside.msfc.nasa.gov for more information.

Three spacewalks planned during Atlantis' 11-day mission

By Sanda Martel

The first two spacewalks of the STS-115 mission have been successfully completed — the first on Tuesday, Sept. 12. The second spacewalk began on Wednesday at 4:05 a.m. CDT and was completed about six-and-one-half hours later. One remaining spacewalk is planned for Thursday.

Tuesday's spacewalk featured mission specialists Joe Tanner and Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper attaching the P3/P4 integrated truss and its solar arrays to the International Space Station. The 35,000-pound girder-like structure with the giant solar arrays, batteries and associated electronics will be unfurled during the mission's third spacewalk on Thursday. The 240-foot arrays will double the space station's power capability.

During the second spacewalk, mission specialists Dan Burbank and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Steve MacLean prepared the newly installed truss for operation.

Space Shuttle Atlantis and its six-member crew lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., at 10:14:55 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, on its 11-day mission to the space station.

"It's been almost four years, two Return to Flight missions, a tremendous amount of work by thousands of individuals to get the shuttle program back to where we are right now and that's on the verge of restarting the station assembly sequence," said Atlantis' Commander Brent Jett. "We're confident over the next few weeks, and few years for that matter, that NASA's going to prove to our nation, to our partners and our friends around the world that it was worth the wait and the sacrifice. We're ready to get to work."

Atlantis docked with the space station Monday, Sept. 11, at 5:48 a.m., after Jett and Pilot Chris Ferguson commanded Atlantis to do a back flip maneuver, which allowed the Expedition 13 crew to



Space Shuttle Atlantis lifted off Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10:14:55 a.m., on its mission to the International Space Station. The STS-115 mission is the 116th space shuttle flight, the 27th flight for orbiter Atlantis and the 19th U.S. flight to the space station.

photograph Atlantis' heat shield. Those pictures will be downlinked to engineers on the ground for analysis.

The six STS-115 astronauts entered the space station for the first time at 7:30 a.m., to be greeted by the station's Expedition 13 crew members, flight engineer and European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter; Commander Pavel Vinogradov; and flight engineer and NASA Science Officer Jeffrey Williams.

After the hatches opened, the STS-115 and space station Expedition 13 crews quickly went to work. At 9:52 a.m., Atlantis' robotic arm handed off the P3/P4 truss to its counterpart on the station.

Landing is set for Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 4:47 a.m., at the Kennedy Space Center.

STS-115 is the first station assembly mission since STS-113 in late 2002.

For the latest information about the STS-115 mission and its crew, visit www.nasa.gov/shuttle.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

Twins offer Marshall's Arthur Patrick new challenges at work and at home

By Bill Hubscher

When Arthur Patrick, an environmental engineer with Marshall's Office of Center Operations, learned he was going to be a father, he knew his life was about to change.

Then came the news that his wife, Lisa, was carrying twin girls.

"Initially, because we married late in life, we were excited just to be expecting a child," Patrick says. "So, with twins, we considered ourselves twice blessed."

Shea and Abigail Patrick were born in June 2004. Three months later, the Patricks' lives took a sudden turn. In the wake of alarming symptoms from Abigail — constant crying, pallid complexion and finally listlessness — an emergency room visit revealed the baby had cardiomyopathy, a life-threatening condition that enlarges and thickens the heart. Shea would shortly receive the same diagnosis.

Doctors told the Patricks that the only way to fix their daughters' problems was a heart transplant for each.

Both children were admitted to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., in October 2004. They went on a list for infant heart donations, and Abigail, who was diagnosed first, received a transplant in November 2004. Shea received hers in February 2005. They didn't leave Nashville to return home to Huntsville until May.

Throughout the emotional experience, the Patricks stayed in a home in Nashville that was provided for them by a Nashville-area with realtor free rent and utilities so they could be close to their girls. Arthur maintained four-day, 40-hour weeks at Marshall where his duties include making sure permits for Marshall's wastewater disposal are in compliance with the state and federal codes. He also ensures that Marshall meets the requirements of state and federal laws for above- and below-ground petroleum storage tanks.

After his last 10-hour day of the week, he would immediately drive up Interstate 65 to rejoin his wife and recovering children in Nashville.

"Sometimes, I feel like I got off easy," he says. "My wife stayed by the children's bedsides. For me, coming to work was a welcome distraction from the worry and concern I felt for the girls — Lisa included. It kept me busy."

Then, during the children's recovery, a complication occurred. Abigail suffered a lack of oxygen for a short time while coming off life support after the surgery, resulting in brain damage, Patrick says. Because of the oxygen deprivation, Arthur and Lisa Patrick now are raising not only two children with transplanted hearts, but also one with cerebral palsy.

"Two years ago, we were faced with the possibility of losing them both," he says of his daughters. "If one of them has some special needs, it's just something we will handle as a family."

"They're both beautiful, loving children," Patrick says. "Abigail is a bright baby like her sister, but doesn't communicate in the same way and has less advanced motor skills than Shea." Now that the girls are entering the "terrible twos," Shea, who has fully recovered, often fights going to sleep so she can have another story or more playtime. For Abigail, Patrick says it's a matter of her brain simply not letting her wind down and sleep.

Throughout their ordeal, Patrick had the demonstrated and wide support of his Marshall family. "I had co-workers who were willing to step in and cover for me, and my supervisor, Allen Elliott, was very understanding of what we were going through," he says. "It made the situation a little less stressful."

To read more about the Patrick family's experience, visit www.joe_patrick.typepad.com.

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David Higginbotham/MSFC

Marshall Center environmental engineer Arthur Patrick, left, enjoys playtime with his wife, Lisa, and his twin daughters Abigail and, on the rocking horse, Shea.

Cookout

Continued from page 1

be held adjacent to Building 4752 near the picnic area. Marshall employees are invited to display personal vehicles. Entries will be accepted in five categories: corvette; custom; import; classic/muscle cars; and trucks, motorcycles and other. Spectator voting will determine first-, second- and third-place trophies awarded in each category. To enter vehicles in the expo, contact Lou Nosenzo at 544-7401 or lou.nosenzo@nasa.gov.

In addition, a 26-foot Ares I crew launch vehicle model will be on display at the picnic grounds. A part of NASA's future exploration goals, Ares I will transport the Orion crew exploration vehicle to space. Guest appearances by two astronauts are tentatively scheduled at the cookout.

Hosting a celebration of this magnitude requires precise planning to ensure a successful event. Each organization will receive meal tickets to

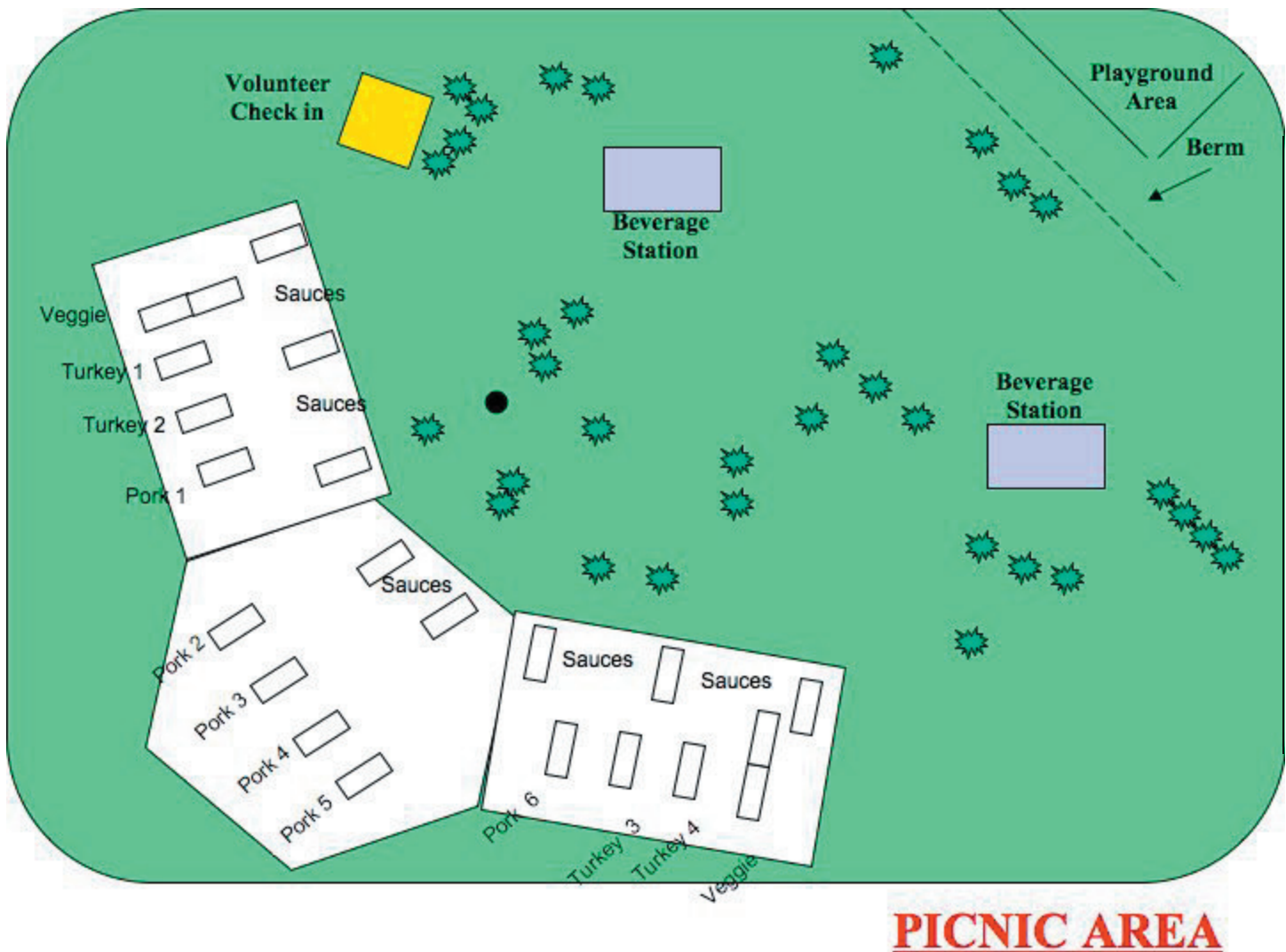
distribute to each employees before the event. A meal ticket provides for one plate and one trip through a chosen food line.

The meal will feature a barbecue selection of pork or turkey; several sauces; plenty of sides including beans, potato salad and cole slaw; soft drinks; and bottled water. For those who prefer meatless options, a vegetarian line also will be available.

Bus transportation will be provided to and from the picnic area. Employees with special needs requiring transportation may call 544-8294. A printable picnic area map and a bus schedule are available on "Inside Marshall." The cookout will be held rain or shine. Activities Building 4316 will be the alternate site in case of inclement weather.

For more information or questions, contact Michael McLean, events manager, at 544-0397 or michael.mclean@nasa.gov.

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are Chitwood; Brian O'Brady, vice president of the Tennessee Valley Authority Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Ala.; Col. John Olshefski, Garrison commander at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville; and Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal and Tennessee Valley CFC chairman.

"Marshall Center employees are always up for a challenge," said George Myers, Marshall's 2006 CFC executive chairman. "Marshall's goal of \$575,000 truly mirrors the spirit of this year's theme, 'Compassion In Action.'"

The campaign kickoff is for Team Redstone employees, which includes the Marshall Center and Army organizations on Redstone Arsenal, and more than 30 federal agencies in Cullman, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties in Alabama, and Lincoln County, Tenn. The event includes an agency fair for employees to learn about the many charities that will benefit from the campaign, and plenty of food, fun and entertainment.

"Marshall's fund-raising goal is a substantial percentage of the Tennessee Valley's overall goal," said Myers. "Employees can designate the organization they want to receive their gift and help provide for local charities, as well as national organizations of their choice."

"I also want to stress — there are no small gifts. Each dollar counts," added Myers. "And donations can be made by cash, check or payroll deduction."

Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. The fair, showcasing more than 50 Tennessee Valley charitable organizations, will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees can check out a display of classic cars and a motorcycle collection from the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Alabama. There also will be door prizes.

Attendees are encouraged by Myers to come early if they want to have lunch. "You won't leave hungry," he said. "Outback Steakhouse has generously agreed to provide 600 complimentary grilled lunches, Costco is donating desserts, and Buffalo Rock Company is supplying Pepsi products to accompany the lunches."

"But make sure you come to the opening ceremonies," he added. "Tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis."

Entertainment for the commencement festivities will include Madison County's Sparkman High School Junior Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps drill team and the Blue Notes, a local a cappella singing group of Huntsville police officers.

Marshall employees are encouraged to wear Combined Federal Campaign T-shirts to show their support of the campaign. In case of inclement weather, the kickoff will be held Sept. 21 at the same time and place.

Beginning Sept. 22, area bus tours will be available for Marshall employees to visit charitable organizations to see first-hand how their CFC donations impact the community. Watch for more information on bus tours in next week's Marshall Star.

The opportunity to give to the CFC begins Oct. 9 and continues through Nov. 17.

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CFC kickoff and agency fair bus stops

Buses will be making round trips to the NASA Picnic Area on Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign kickoff. A van with a chair lift will be available by special request. Taxi service will be available only for employees who are not on a bus route. For special requests or taxi service, call 544-taxi.

Buses will be available at the following entrances/exits at Marshall buildings:

Bus 1

4666 Main
4663 East
4493 North
4705 South

Bus 2

4600 South
4610 North East
4612 West End
4487 South Main

Bus 3

4200 Main
4203 North Side

Bus 4

Leave NSSTC South
9 a.m.
10 a.m.
11 a.m.
Noon
1 p.m.

Leave picnic area
for NSSTC

9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.

Bus 5

Leave Intergraph
Building 700
9 a.m.
10 a.m.
11 a.m.
Noon
1 p.m.

Leave picnic area
for Intergraph Building 700

9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.

Leading the way for a 'Healthier NASA 2006'



Marshall Center Deputy Director Charles Chitwood, center, leads the way during the employee one-mile walk held Sept. 6 as part of the 2006 Health and Fitness Expo. Supporting this year's theme — a "Healthier NASA 2006" — Marshall employees participated in several expo activities, including a Run for Fun 5K, an employee

walk and exhibits of programs and services offered by the area's health community. "Bronze shoe" trophies were awarded to the Office of Chief Counsel for having the highest ratio of participants in the one-mile walk, and to the Engineering Directorate for having the most employee participants in the walk.

Sick leave regulation changes take effect Sept. 18

By Rita Roberts

Two changes to regulations on the use of sick leave for Marshall civil service employees will take effect Sept. 18.

Currently, employees may use 40 hours of sick leave each year for family care and bereavement purposes. They also may use an additional 64 hours of sick leave for these purposes (a total of 104 hours) annually if they maintain a minimum balance of 80 hours in their sick leave account. Beginning Sept. 18, employees will no longer be required to maintain the 80-hour balance in their sick leave account to use the maximum amount of sick leave — 104 hours — provided for family care and bereavement purposes.

Also, employees will now have 15 calendar days to provide a doctor's excuse

for an absence of three or more days. In rare circumstances, the timeframe for providing the excuse may be extended if the employee — despite diligent good-faith efforts — cannot present the document within the 15 calendar days. Under such circumstances, the employee must provide certification within a reasonable period of time, but no later than 30 calendar days.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management published the revised regulations in the Federal Register on Aug. 17.

"OPM issued the changes to ensure all employees are treated equitably and to aid in establishing standardized government-wide pay and leave policies," said Mack Blackman, a human resource specialist in the Office of Human Capital.

Part-time employees also are covered under the new ruling, Blackman said. The amount of sick leave permitted for family care and bereavement purposes for part-time employees is prorated in proportion to the average number of hours in the employee's weekly work schedule.

A copy of the full regulations can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-7005.htm>.

For questions regarding the changes, Marshall employees can call Mack Blackman at 544-7509, or e-mail him at william.m.blackman@nasa.gov.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

Marshall employees to help Hispanic youth reach new frontiers at conference Sept. 15

By Bill Hubscher

Approximately 100 Hispanic students from North Alabama will converge on Huntsville Friday, Sept. 15, as part of NASA's Fifth Annual Hispanic Youth Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Reaching New Frontiers."

The conference, held at the Holiday Inn in Huntsville and hosted by the Marshall Center Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity, Stillman College in Tuscaloosa and Oakwood College in Huntsville, will feature technology demonstrations and workshops to show students how to apply science and math to future careers.

The conference is part of Project Mi Futuro, an educational effort started in 2002 with funding support by NASA, to help Hispanic children improve their quality of life. The project works to prepare the next generation for a successful and productive future by motivating children to stay in school, graduate and go on to college.

At a banquet Friday evening at the Von Braun Center, scheduled speakers will include Elisa Gonzales-Rubio of Birmingham, a marketing consultant with Coca-Cola National; Jorge Bartholomew, the international students advisor for Oakwood College; and Stephen Jackson, a journalism professor at Stillman College.

Marshall employees are invited to attend the workshops at the Holiday Inn on Williams Avenue during the day. Employees also can volunteer to help at the Friday banquet and dance. If you wish to volunteer, contact Elia Ordonez, Hispanic program manager of Marshall's Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity.

For a complete schedule of activities, visit www.alasweb.org/NASA_Hispanic_Conference.htm.

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Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue is 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

Miscellaneous

1920s-era framed seasonal prints, ladies in attire for four seasons. 256-520-4839

John Deere posthole digger, 3-point hitch, \$450. 256-772-9768

Two cemetery plots, Huntsville Memory Gardens, \$2,500. 256-881-4067

Golf clubs, men's left-handed, 1-3-5 woods, 3-9 irons, PW, SW, putter, no bag, \$150. 882-3983

Cartop carrier, sport, 20-SV, 20 cu. ft., \$100. 684-6271

Small dorm refrigerator, \$15. 461-9404

Household/baby items: oak pedestal table w/chairs, entertainment center, toys, clothes, office chair. 880-9025

Amana electric dryer w/electronic readout panel, white, 8 yrs old, \$200. 325-3449.

Garmin GPS 18, USB interface with suction-cup mount, \$50. 850-4185

Women's Lady Viper oversized golf clubs and bag, 3-SW, 1-3-5 woods, \$75. 656-2965

Oak entertainment center w/recessed lights, adjustable shelves, storage, holds up to 36" TV, \$500. 829-0285

Ameristep Grizzly climbing tree stand, \$100. 256-878-4524

Solid wood dresser with mirror, \$60; futon with extra thick mattress, \$199. 658-6514

Velux skylight w/flashing, installed but remove same day, 22x47 approximately, \$200. 881-5756

Samtron computer monitor, used little, in box, \$75; stadium seat, \$6. 837-6776

AKC registered yellow Labrador puppies, female, born 7/31/06, \$250. 256-753-2735

White Forest convertible crib/day bed/full bed, grows w/baby, white changing table. 509-4686

Men's Wilson leather cycle jacket, medium, \$95. 507-0345/evenings Leesha

'Hit-A-Way' tennis/baseball practice pole w/tennis kit, new in box, \$200. 337-2534

Kenmore chest freezer, 15 cu. ft., \$100. 533-9356

Stationary bicycle, pedal RPM and timer, \$35. 883-7752

Canoe, 15.5', Coleman touring style, \$200. 534-4968

Palamino quarter horse, gelding, 8 yrs. old, 15.3h, jumper, \$3,000. 508-7388

Boxes, moving/storage, dozens, undamaged, never wet, clean, all sizes, 50 percent off. 881-9636

Dillon 550B progressive reloader, new in box, setup for 45ACP, dies included, \$250. 882-3814

2000 SeaDoo GTI, cover & trailer, \$2,400. 683-3745

Vehicles

Yamaha YW50 Zuma motorcycle, 500 miles, two helmets, \$2,100. 256-828-3896

1995 Dodge Caravan, new brake system, struts, starter, a/c, well maintained, 147K miles, \$1,700. 772-1870

1998 Volvo V70, loaded, leather and 3rd row seating, 120K miles, \$5,000. 256-679-8041

1999 Chevy Suburban, loaded, leather, heated seats, new Michelin tires, front/rear air, \$8,875. 256-658-0987

1995 Saturn SL2, 4-door, blue, 148K miles, 5-speed, power sunroof, windows, doorlocks, \$3,800. 468-8501

1993 Volvo 940, 4-cyl., white, leather, sunroof, 2 owners,

RWD, automatic, new tires, \$3,600. 883-1874

1972 Triumph Spitfire 1500, red, new tires, brakes, refurbished fluids, solid body/engine, \$4,400. 256-881-4748

1998 GMC Yukon SLT, maroon w/tan leather, heated seats, auto, 4WD, \$8,900. 682-6326

1998 Chevy S-10 pickup, extended cab, loaded, 91.6K miles, needs mechanical work, \$3,300. 325-3568

1986 Cadillac Eldorado, red, 2-door, power sunroof, touring package, 58K miles. 885-2293

1996 Lowe 225 Pontoon boat, 50hp outboard, equipped for fishing, \$6,000. 931-638-7518

2000 VW Beetle GLS w/luxury package, automatic transmission, power sunroof, well maintained, 96K miles, \$7,300. 830-9507

2002 camper, 5th wheel, 30' w/slide-out, sleeps 8, full kitchen and bath. 721-1260

Fiberglass Bass boat, 16', needs cosmetic fix-up, 85hp, trailer, anchor mates, trolling motor, livewell, \$650. 883-9884

2003 Harley XL1200C 100th Anniversary Gold Key Edition, 6.3K miles, many extras, \$7,900. 256-658-6565

Wanted

Hand weights above 10 lbs. 837-1006

Football tickets, 4 seats together, Auburn vs. Arkansas. 256-828-1234

Bose wave radio. 527-8116

Alabama football tickets. 256-878-0124

Wheelchair, 24", for someone on fixed income. 655-1547
Older model Airstream travel trailer or motorhome. 931-732-4742

Football tickets, 4 seats together, Alabama vs. Duke. 256-233-3215/Patrick

Found

USB Flash Drive. Call 544-3623 to claim and identify.

Stanford physicist Dr. Arthur Bienenstock to present lecture Sept. 20 at NSSTC

By Rick Smith

Dr. Arthur Bienenstock, vice provost and dean of research at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif., and a former senior science adviser to President Bill Clinton, will speak Sept. 20 at the National Space Science and Technology Center in Huntsville — part of the center's Distinguished Lecture Series.

Bienenstock, who has held his post at Stanford since 2003, will lecture on the relationship between condensed matter and high-energy physics. His talk will begin at 11 a.m. in NSSTC Room 4078.

Condensed-matter physics deals with the microscopic physical properties of matter. Astrophysicists surmise condensed-matter physics may help shed new light in the study of so-called "dark matter," material in space that is invisible to us because it emits no observable radiation, but exhibits detectable gravitational properties.

Bienenstock's lecture is free and open to employees and contractors at the NSSTC and Marshall, commercial partners and university students and instructors. Marshall will provide a live Web-cast of the lecture.

Bienenstock is part of a group of Stanford scientists visiting the NSSTC Sept. 20-21. He and physicists Dr. Blas Cabrera and Dr. Francis Everett — both acclaimed for their research into the nature of dark matter — will meet with David King, Marshall Center director; John Horack, assistant manager of Marshall's Science and Mission Systems Office; Marty Kress, executive director of the NSSTC; and other Marshall managers, researchers and staff. They will discuss NASA's science mission and ponder future collaborative activities between Stanford, the NSSTC and Marshall.

In 1997, President Clinton nominated Bienenstock as associate director for science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. In that role, he was a strong advocate for federal

research funding and provided the administration with guidance on complex scientific and policy issues.

Bienenstock has served much of his teaching career at Stanford. He earned a master's degree in physics in 1957 from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, N.Y., and a doctorate in physics in 1962 from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Following a four-year associate

professorship at Harvard, he joined the Stanford faculty in 1967, taking a tandem appointment as professor in both the Department of Materials Science and the Department of Applied Physics.

In addition to his teaching duties, he served from 1972 to 1977 as vice provost for faculty affairs, and from 1978 to 1997 as director of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory. The laboratory, operated by Stanford for the Department of Energy, generates synchrotron radiation — X-rays or light produced by electrons circulating in a storage ring at nearly the speed of light — which is used to investigate various forms of matter.

The Distinguished Lecturer Series, begun in May and hosted by the NSSTC and its participating organizations, brings monthly speakers to Huntsville from industry, academia, private research facilities and government agencies around the nation. The series is designed to enhance the NSSTC's position as a leading national research facility and to foster strong, mutually beneficial partnerships between NASA and science technology-driven organizations. Future speakers will address topics as far-ranging as global weather systems, advanced robotics, unpiloted aerial vehicles, lunar science and new missions to study the sun-Earth environment.

For more information, call the NSSTC at 961-7000.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.



Arthur Bienenstock

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